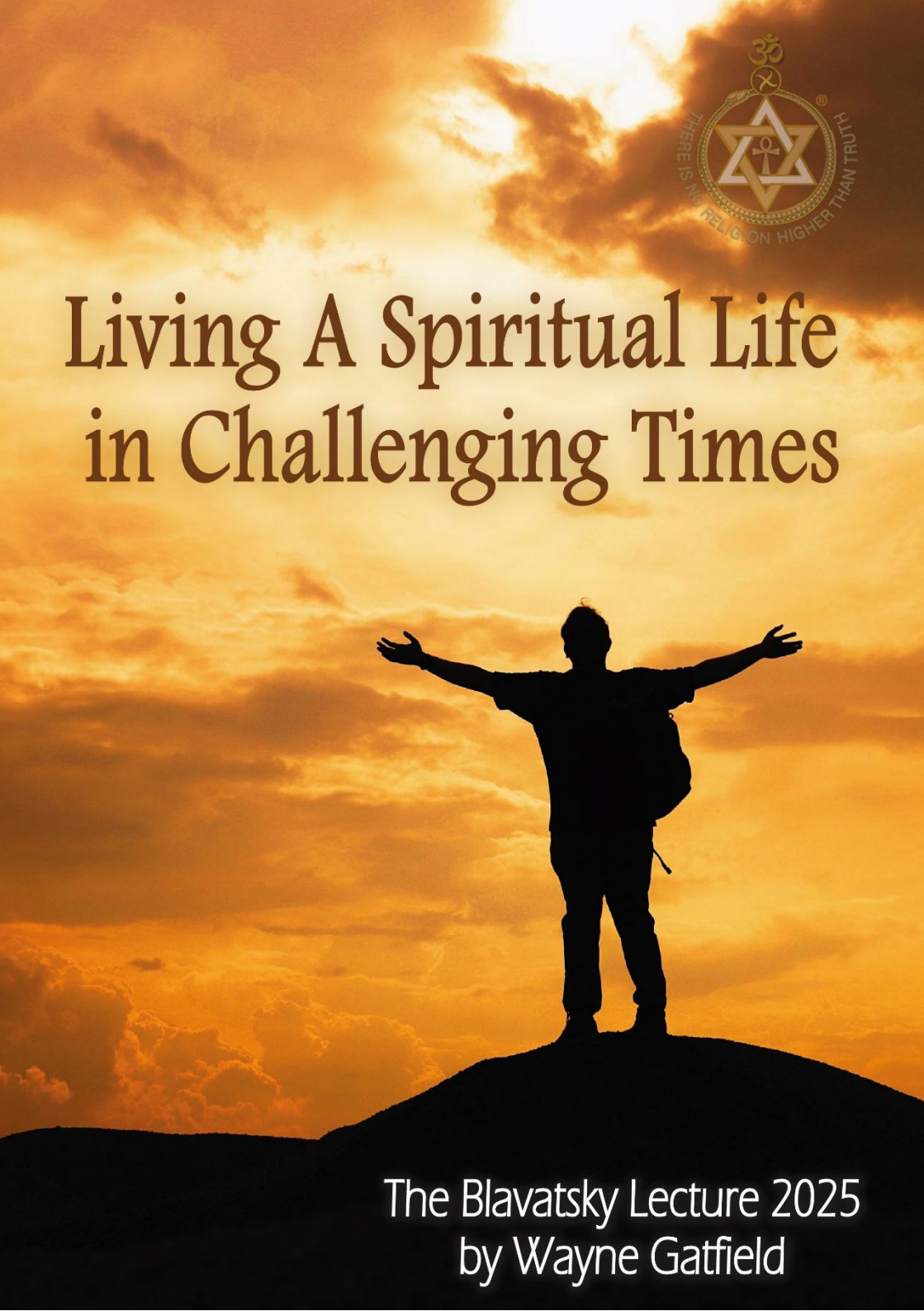
Living A Spiritual Life in Challenging Times



The Blavatsky Lecture 2025
by Wayne Gatfield

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LIVING A SPIRITUAL LIFE in CHALLENGING TIMES

By Wayne Gatfield

delivered at Summer Convention

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We are all aware of the challenging times we live in with wars and rumours of wars the world over. Trying to live a spiritual life in the midst of all this conflict is more essential than ever. The world needs some love and compassion and a light in the darkness. This talk looks at ways we can put this into action.

The key to everything to me is when the Masters wrote that they wanted a Brotherhood of Humanity, a real Universal Fraternity started. This is evidently the reason why the Theosophical Society was founded. They were concerned with the way society was going and decided to release a portion of the previously esoteric teachings solely that certain people would understand the motivation and use what they learned to help to bring about that result.

"In the midst of darkness, light persists." – Mahatma Gandhi, Speech (1947)

It is very easy to become lost in all the many fascinating teachings we have from HP Blavatsky and the Masters, but we should never forget that the main focus of all our studies and meditations is to find ways to put all we learn into practice for the benefit of humanity as a whole, by self-induced and self-devised efforts. We are all different and we can all use our unique individuality to discover ways to make use of the teachings in positive ways that will eventually dissolve all those illusions that separate us on many levels. Ultimately, we will come together in a true Spirit of Brotherhood and Sisterhood. Theosophy leads us towards an understanding of our responsibility to the planet we live on and all its inhabitants by revealing to us our Oneness with all things. It is this interconnectedness that is our inspiration to try to live a Spiritual life.

There are countless signposts provided for us in the Spiritual and Mystical literature of many traditions throughout the world and over many centuries, we just need to try to adapt those teachings to our lives in the most effective way possible to each one of us individually.

One of the most important practises for us all to do is to start to think of ourselves more as Spiritual Beings, rather than the material ones that we have all been conditioned to regard ourselves as. Also to try to see our brothers and Sisters in the same way. This may be difficult given the nature of certain individuals in the world today, but that is the real test. Can we see the light in them despite their apparent evil, does that light even exist? At least we can try to find that light within our own hearts and thereby do our best to illuminate the dark places of the world inner and outer.

"Don't you know yet? It is your light that lights the world" Rumi

There has to be a solution as to why there is so much hatred in the world and so little love. HPB says in the "Key to Theosophy":

"If the action of one reacts on the lives of all, and this is the true scientific idea, then it is only by all men becoming brothers and all women sisters, and by all practising in their daily lives true brotherhood and true sisterhood, that the real human solidarity, which lies at the root of the elevation of the race, can ever be attained."

Why are we so afraid of each other? So many tragedies, people killed in wars and acts of terrorism; everyone who dies is someone's son or daughter or husband or wife or mother or father. The perpetrators shut out of their minds any feelings of compassion or love and driven by some political or religious ideology are willing to kill or maim their brothers and sisters for something that is ultimately of no importance. A will-o-the wisp in the grand scale of things. People fear what they hate and hate what they fear and so create barriers that prevent them from looking into the hearts of their fellow pilgrims and seeing that the light that shines in them is no different from the light that shines in you and me and everyone. These people smother their souls and become less than human, because unless we are touched by the beauty of the soul, we wander in the dark places of our hearts- devoid of pity, devoid of love, devoid of understanding. Politics and religion divide and make their adherents intolerant of other ways of thought. We have to come to realise that we need to be aware of the Spirit in everyone and that it has nothing whatever to do with man-made religions or philosophies, which reflect the attitudes and prejudices of those who have created them.

How wonderful it is to break free and breathe the clear air of the Spirit and soar above the morass of modern 'civilisation'. I often use Plato's saying that "heaven sent madness is preferable to man made sanity." We are told what constitutes 'sanity' and so it keeps us restrained within the confines of limited thought

We have to act in a certain conditioned ways to be regarded as sane and these are based upon a misunderstanding of our true nature. If we act spontaneously under the guidance of our Higher Self, we will be regarded as insane; because those who judge us have no awareness of the Spiritual dimension to their being. So to them it will seem like madness.

We are often oblivious of the affect the media is having on us and how little most people actually think for themselves. The majority of human beings are good natured in many ways, because the feeling of oneness cannot be completely crushed out in most but we still are bombarded with images and ideas that are not our own. In fact, in many cases we may think they are our own but actually belong to someone or something we saw, heard or read many years ago which has disappeared from our conscious memory but is rooted in our subconscious. This is one more proof of our Oneness, everything we do affects everything else.

So how do we live in the Light of our Spiritual Self in a spontaneous manner? If we are immersed in this society, as most of us are, it is not an easy question to answer. Most of us have duties to fulfil to family, friends and to our fellow human beings in general. We are on this planet to learn and to grow, either spiritually or materially. If we choose the former then we should focus our attention on those things that help to awaken our awareness of the Spiritual side of life- beautiful art, poetry and music can help as can absorbing the beauties of nature. On a still Higher-level meditation and the reading and practice of Spiritual literature is essential. We must also learn to see what our fellow human beings are in reality, behind the masks they wear. Know that if we criticize anyone for their race, religion or colour that we may have been in the same position in a previous life or may be in a future one. What connects us is the Spirit within, which is identical in everyone.

Our fellow human beings will not be judged by surface appearances. Everyone has their own journey, and we do not know what another is going through that may make them angry, withdrawn or bitter. We must always remember that deep inside them is brooding the True Spiritual Being and that we must seek to be aware of and perchance bring to the surface with kind words, loving thoughts and gentle treatment, not being concerned with short term results. Seeds have been planted that may sprout in this or future lives. We must elevate these from mere intellectual concepts to the realm of enlightened practice and understand that the reason these teachings were given out to us was so that we would become aware of the true dignity of human nature and its place in this evolutionary scheme, and to also realise our relationship and responsibility towards all the other kingdoms of nature.

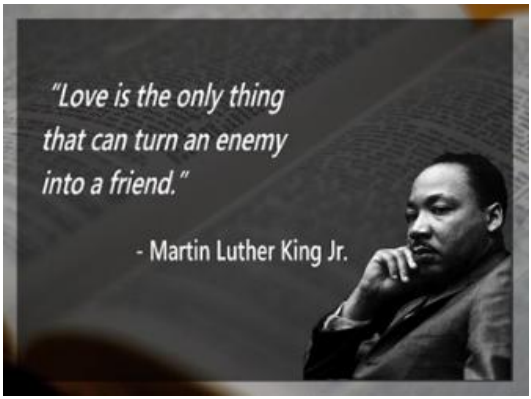
Find the beauty in ourselves and see it in others.

An appreciation of what is truly beautiful and therefore illuminates the mind and draws it towards the Soul and through the Soul to the Spirit is the talisman and the golden thread that leads us out of the labyrinth of our earth bound thoughts and into the pure air of our highest aspirations. Can we truly see what is behind the veil of illusion and into the world as it is and not as we have been conditioned to see it? Can we become aware of the wonders of nature that are obscured by the selfish goals set by those who would destroy its beauty to gain transitory material goods? These will not outlast the brief time we are here in this life and have no real meaning in the scale of things. There is nothing more meaningful and beautiful than the Light kindled in our hearts that will illumine the world we live in and reveal to us the love that transforms and can awaken in others an awareness of the Light in their hearts.

Those who are willing to follow this often hard and thorny path are those who have pledged to try to end the suffering of those who wander in darkness. Yet these must have found the love and peace that is beyond the suffering, otherwise what have they to give and to share? Beyond the seeming darkness there is perpetual Light and only those who have discovered this can safely enter the self-created hell of others to shine that light in the gloom and lead the way to a deeper understanding-one that tells us that all the suffering affects only the transitory physical Self and not the Higher Self which is in a constant state of meditation in a place of safety.

On the subject of love, Leo Tolstoy wrote:

"Whether the employment of violence or the endurance of evil will be useful or harmful I do not know, and no one knows. But I do know, as every person knows, that love is well-being; the love of others for me is a blessing and still more is my love for others. The supreme bliss is my love for others, and not only for those who love me, but as Christ said, for those who hate me, offend me, and commit evil against me. However strange these things may sound to someone who has not felt this, it is so, and when you think about it and experience it you are only surprised at how you could ever have failed to understand it. Love, true love, love that denies itself and transfers itself to another, is the awakening within oneself of the highest universal principle of life. But it is only true love and affords all the happiness it can give when it is simply love, free from anything personal, from the smallest drop of personal bias towards its object. And such love can only be felt for one's enemy, for those who hate and offend. Thus, the instruction to love not those who love us, but those who hate us, is not an exaggeration, nor an indication of possible exclusions, but just an indication of that opportunity and possibility of receiving the supreme bliss that love gives. That this must be so follows logically and one only needs to experience it to be convinced. And then instances of offence and assault become valuable and desirable. And thus, having perceived the essence of the human soul, we see that it works in such a way that responding to evil with evil makes it suffer, whereas responding to evil with love leads to the highest attainable bliss."



(The Law of Love and the Law of Violence)

What is violence, how did it arise, why do we allow it's existence? It has nothing to do with the Spiritual life at all. It has arisen only because of our misunderstanding of our true nature.

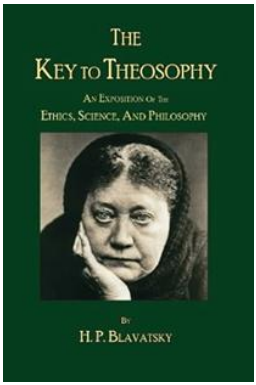
The world goes crazy with man-made violence and cruelty. It becomes more difficult to those on a Spiritual Path to maintain their equilibrium, but in the end the Good, the True and the Beautiful will triumph over the will-o-the wisps of human insanity. This is because there is a light that never goes out…as the Smith's say in a song with that title. In the Bible John 1:9 there is mention of "the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." In a wider sense it is a Light that illuminates not just men and women but every living thing and grows brighter as the vehicle it shines through becomes more refined and is capable of bearing witness to this Light and with it casting a ray of hope into the hearts of those who struggle in darkness and helping them to make some sense of their lives.

We must therefore learn to understand the transience of the material world and of our lives within it and the fact that the "hour will never strike" for the True Man and Woman- the Spiritual Being. Our future is one of ever-growing beauty and Light- we cannot conceive of the worlds that we will dwell in or the wonders that we will see and feel on our pilgrimage once we are free of the grip of the material self. To reach this we must not run away from the trials of Life but face them bravely and overcome those things that hold us back- those "mind forged manacles" that William Blake writes of. If we flee we will have to return until we have dealt with the problem. The way is not easy but if we learn to love and understand our fellow pilgrims then we will never be alone on the often misty road that we travel together. We must always be ready to lead a helping hand to those who are struggling on besides us.

HPB writes:

"From strength to strength, from the beauty and perfection of one plane to the greater beauty and perfection of another, with accessions of new glory, of fresh knowledge and power in each cycle, such is the destiny of every Ego, which thus becomes its own saviour in each world and incarnation."

(Key to Theosophy- page 155)



So this gives us great promise for the future if we are willing to place ourselves under the guidance of our Higher Self and live in the Light of our Spiritual Nature-it is all a great adventure with no end in sight, as far as our limited senses tell us anyway- but on this planet here and now the first and foremost task we should all undertake is to learn to live together as brothers and sisters regardless of race creed, sex, caste or colour - because as the Theosophical motto says-there is no religion higher than TRUTH.

The world and very often the media portrays the world as very much a place of darkness. We have so many dystopian books and films and we gain a very negative view of the world...But the world is what we make it -how we look at it and if we transform our consciousness-the world also transforms.

To be lights in the perceived darkness is very important.

Pronoia is a word I came across quite recently. It is the opposite of paranoia and is the feeling we might have that all is working in our favour.

In the world of Spiritual teaching and practice it is said that everything that happens to us, seemingly good or bad, is actually meant to help us on our way if only we are able to use the experiences in a positive way.

The modern world conspires to make us feel depressed and pessimistic at the violence and cruelty that surrounds us, but it is essential that there is a nucleus of souls who are willing and able to look at things differently and thereby help in the healing of a troubled world.

Aggression is not the way to get one's point across, but that is what many groups are doing; unfortunately, no matter how worthy the cause it is merely adding to the storehouse of anger and negativity in the world. We may feel "righteous anger" at some of the atrocities that go on in the world, but this need not become aggression. It can be used to initiate positive changes for the good and in the end only Love is beneficially transformative.

Is everything working ultimately towards a 'happy ending' or are we on the path to self- destruction as many dystopian novels and films portray? The word dystopian can be said to be the opposite of Utopian, which depicts an ideal society where everything is perfect and peace and happiness reign supreme. Many critics say that such a state is impossible on this earthly plane of being and to believe in such an Arcadian society is mere folly.

The Truth is that the Golden Age is all around us and within us despite Hindu teachings saying we are in the Age of Kali or darkness. Kali is not just the destroyer but also the regenerator. The world becomes what we envisage it to be. Materialistic politicians, religious leaders and scientists see only wars and violence as the solution to the world's problems. Mountains made out of molehills in the majority of cases, lack of perspective, and failure to see the beauty and dignity of human nature behind the mask of personality. If we believe in a better world then the seeds are planted, whether it takes years or centuries for them to sprout.

What has made the world as it is? Only the misguided thoughts and actions of those with power but lacking wisdom or compassion. The ordinary man and woman in the street has become infected with pessimism, due to the media focusing on the negative news stories around the world. The world may not be heading for the destruction that films portray if we are able to recognize what we are in essence, immortal and indestructible beings. Even those who do not believe this would surely rather leave something positive behind when they 'move on' no matter where they think that is or isn't.

HP Blavatsky writes concerning the year 1888, but applicable to any year:

"Man's life is in his own hands, his fate is ordered by himself. Why then should not 1888 be a year of greater spiritual development than any we have lived through? It depends on ourselves to make it so. This is an actual fact, not a religious sentiment. In a garden of sunflowers every flower turns towards the light. Why not so with us?"

She also says that we should try to make life not only beautiful but divine and vow no longer to be hampered by disbelief in the possibility of this miracle, but to commence the Herculean task at once. Can we all turn towards the Spiritual Light and make it our guide?

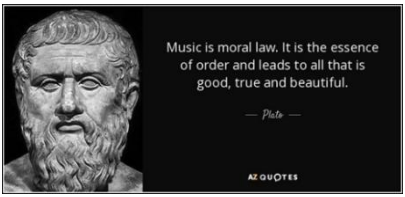
End times that are spoken of with finality may indeed also be beginning times, a time of regeneration and transformation. The world moves on and as suggested by the word Pronoia, everything is working towards the good. It's up to those who are aware of their Spiritual Nature to make use of that knowledge and understand the power of the Spirit to transform, uplift and inspire. Once we become aware of what it really means to be human then we will be unable to think of doing any harm to our brothers and sisters. It is only a misunderstanding of our True Nature that creates the illusion of separateness that is causing so much havoc in the world today.

We should try to see beauty rather than ugliness, those things that lift the spirit and make contemplate a better world. Poets, writers, artists and musicians have all attempted to express this beauty and Spiritual teachers have given us guidelines to realizing the Higher Self.

If we can understand and appreciate all living things upon this planet at their true worth then we will no longer be antagonistic to anyone or anything or exploit nature merely for material gain.

Of course, at the moment this does seem like 'building castles in the sky', but in reality, to create a world of love and peace is achievable if people believe in the possibility and set about making it a living reality in their daily lives.

The beneficial power of the Spirit is many times more potent than even the power of the mind and the two working together can bring about what seem like miracles. So, we need to awaken to what we all in reality to and what we can achieve with true faith in our Higher Self. Always try to be optimistic and focus on the Good, the True and the Beautiful, through all the many trials of life. We are all One in Essence and in Union is our true strength. No matter where we are on the path, no matter how dark life becomes there is always beauty hidden somewhere. When evening falls and all mellows into a serene stillness and the setting sun casts amber light over the earth, we can sense that beyond the cacophony there is something eternally silent and magical that nothing in our material form can touch. There is something we can love that takes our soul into realms of increasing wonder and enchantment. It's as if we have awoken from a long sleep and are seeing the world anew.



Yet most people, in their quiet moments, have their visions and dreams; unless they fill their lives with constant noise, inwardly and outwardly. They have moments of bravery, kindness and love, which can be manifestations of the Higher Self breaking through from time to time. I often quote Pythagoras who stated, "take heart for the race of man is Divine" and HP Blavatsky wrote that no true Theosophist ever despairs of humanity. A Theosophist is one who travels a true Spiritual Path and is not necessarily the member of any society or organisation. So we see there are so many individuals and groups trying to bring a little sanity into this world at the moment, when insanity seems to reign supreme. The effects of efforts on a Spiritual Plane are much more potent than ones on a material level, as these remain grounded and have no wings to soar.

The race of man and woman is indeed Divine and we need to start to regard it as such if we are to bring a Golden Age back to this earth. Goethe wrote:

"My friend the Golden Age has passed away…
Only the good have the power to bring it back."

The earth follows certain cycles of time, but this does not mean that they are deterministic. There are wheels within wheels, and we can affect the course of events by our meditations, thoughts and actions. If we really want a Golden Age, we can bring it about. It is a strange anomaly that the world seems to want the opposite at the moment and works towards creating a hell on earth. Even most religions are preoccupied with gaining converts and denouncing other ways of thought that do not coincide with theirs. They have forgotten the teachings of their founders.

But Love and Light can win the day if we forget all our petty differences and work together as Human Beings to bring an end to wars and conflicts. Let us then not underestimate the power of the Spirit to bring about changes and affect the very atmosphere that surrounds us. It is such positivity that is needed to stop seeing life as a meaningless burden and begin to discern the Eternal Path that leads to the Heart of the Universe.

Sri Radhakrishnan writes:
"When all seems lost, light from heaven breaks, enriching our human life more than words can tell. A sudden flash, an inward illumination we have and life is seen fresh and new. When the Divine birth takes place within us, the scales fall from our eyes, the bolts of the prison open. The Lord abides in the heart of every creature and when the veil of that secret sanctuary is withdrawn, we hear the Divine voice, receive the Divine light, act in the Divine power. The embodied human consciousness is uplifted into the unborn eternal. The incarnation of Krishna is not so much the conversion of Godhead into flesh as the taking up of manhood into God."

In Theosophy we have a much different interpretation of the word 'God'. It has little to do with the anthropomorphic idea of a being outside of us, who tends to get very angry if we do no bow down and worship him and exacts a terrible revenge on those who oppose him. Our concept of God is of the God within each one of us and which is the embodiment of pure love and compassion.

This is much more soul satisfying than to rely on something or someone external to deal with our problems. If we know that we are in charge of our own destiny and that we are far from being "weak, miserable sinners" as exoteric Christianity states that we are without the inspiration and help of an external force.

In Buddhism there is the teaching of 'self power' and 'other power'. Self power is relying upon one's own limited thoughts and meditations to progress on the Spiritual Path. Other power would suggest relying on external Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, but esoterically it refers to our Buddha nature or Higher Self.

A poem by the 14th century Sufi poet Hafiz says:

I
Have
Learned
So much from God
That I can no longer
Call
Myself A Christian, a Hindu, a Muslim
A Buddhist, a Jew.
The Truth has shared so much of Itself
With me
That I can no longer call myself
A man, a woman, an angel
Or even pure
Soul.
Love has
Befriended Hafiz so completely
It has turned to ash
And freed
Me
Of every concept and image
My mind has ever known.

Identifying with a certain religion, philosophy or way of thought creates divisions. We have to learn that the Higher Self is beyond any kind of conceptualisation, and we need to live in the Light of that impersonal Self. However, impersonality does not automatically mean to be cold and distant as the word may imply.

A quote I often use is from Robert Crosbie's book "The Friendly Philosopher". He was the founder of the United Lodge of Theosophists. In this book he states:

"For practical purposes: if we are developing the child-heart; if we are learning to love things beautiful; if we are becoming more honest and plain and simple; if we are beginning to sense the sweet side of life; if we are getting to like our friends better and extending the circle; if we feel ourselves expanding in sympathy; if we love to work for Theosophy and do not ask position as a reward: if we are not bothering too much about whether we are personal or impersonal – this is travelling on the path of impersonality."

That gives a much different and more satisfying view of impersonality and helps us to see the Spiritual Path in a much different light. There is a tendency to look upon Theosophy as something heavy and overly serious, but if we take the attitude of the quote by Robert Crosbie, we have a completely different view of things and can see it from a completely different angle. Practically it is a soul freeing experience. There is always hope no matter how difficult life seems to get at times.

So, to sum up and recap on certain points.

There is something within each one of us that takes no note of conditions but finds its strength in something deeper. It's important to remember that this is who or what we really. In this world we live a false life moulded by education and society in general. We are made to fit into 'pigeon holes'. We become a collection of names and concepts that are not our own, so that we slot into the world created by others- based on materialistic ideas and the cult of the personality.

It takes something either traumatic or wonderful to take us beyond all that and to see our True Self in a transcendental Divine life as the Mahachohan says. This is our natural life. It isn't weird or mystical really. It is just how we should be when all the masks are removed.

Think about it. Are we ever able to be what we Are with all the pressures and distractions that life throws our way? Perhaps in quiet moments of meditation or out in nature we have 'intimations of our immortality' but these rarely last for very long.

It's always very useful to be alone sometimes. If we go out in the countryside with others we may lose some of the benefits with meaningless conversation unless we are lucky enough to be out there with a twin soul with whom we are able to share the beauty. Nowadays people seem to prefer the counterfeit world of the internet to the real one and are too engrossed in their phones to be aware of the wonders around and within them.

Above all this miasmic thought and emotion shines the radiant sun in a sky of azure blue where those able to soar can breathe freely in the light of pure love. Yet we should not be too critical of human nature. Most of us have a longing for something more permanent amidst the ever changing kaleidoscope of life and we too often fill this longing with transitory objects, ideas and thoughts. What is eternal in us makes us awaken in so many ways. It transforms us into Real Humans expressing in our lives the spontaneity of being alive with an inspiration of our own as our guiding light.

There may be a gap between speaking about living a Spiritual Life and actually putting it into practice. It is easy to use words, but difficult to actually manifest them in our day to day lives with all the pressures of modern society and the instantaneous reactions we have to certain situations that override any noble thoughts we may entertain in our quiet moments alone, when we have time to reflect unchallenged.

The Theosophical Masters have always told us to TRY. In the final analysis that is all we can do.

With persistence we can reach that calm centre, no matter where we are and in what set of circumstances. Everything is a learning process and nothing really is a mistake if only we use it in the right way to gain more understanding of our True Nature and that of others. Failures can become successes -we can always turn the mind around if we so wish and bathe it in the light of the Spirit. We are only limited by the misunderstanding of that True Nature and the limitless potential that is ours for the taking.

Love and Peace are words that are used almost ad nauseam in the world today. Do we really know the power of these words when transformed into positive actions for the good of humanity? Do any of us really understand the sacrifices made by so many to make them a living reality in our daily lives? They are the alchemy that will transform this planet into a Golden Age of Light, if only we make the effort to comprehend what they really mean beyond the words.

The world thrives on noise and disharmony, the Universe exists in a state of tranquillity and serenity. We are that Universe- microcosms of the macrocosm- we have all the powers of that Universe within us, waiting to manifest and bless and save humanity.

The Heart is the centre of Spiritual Consciousness, let us radiate out from that sacred place the vibrations that will help to bring peace to this trouble earth and not be put off by the seeming impossibility of the task. Spiritual powers are countless times more potent than material ones, and it is essential to be aware of this. It is our talisman.

So let us work towards establishing Human Solidarity in the world and banishing the divisiveness that now blights the minds of the majority of the worlds population. There is much good in the world, and in people, that could be brought to the surface with the right kind of guidance and inspiration from those who have the love of Humanity as their guiding Light. Of these there are many and they are the true heroes in the drama, though they may not wish to be regarded as such.

Once we begin to see ourselves as eternal beings and to make that realisation a living reality in our lives, then we enter a new state of consciousness and, although we live, move and have our being in the same surroundings as before, we in fact are living in a different world because we are perceiving it in a more enlightened manner. In fact, as regards Spiritual Progress, we don't go anywhere; but as our senses and consciousness are refined, we are aware of deeper levels and dimensions to our perception of the illusions that give us credence in an ever-changing universe. To find stability we need to be aware of the unchanging dimension to our own being.

As the Spirit filters down through our ever-densifying levels of consciousness it illuminates and hones our various principles. Our mind becomes purified and capable of appreciating the higher aspects of existence, our emotions become sanctified to a deeper reality and our physical body is transformed into a temple of the Holy Grail.

The influence of our Divine Nature manifests in our daily lives as a purified conscience, a highly sensitive recognition of the suffering of others caused by their ignorance of their True Being and a love and compassion for all sentient beings as emanating from, and returning eventually to, the same Source. Also we can see that no matter what events befalls us in our lives, whether we designate them 'good' or 'bad'; if we have the right attitude, if we have as our line of life meditation the 'desire' to live in the light of our Higher Self; then all that comes to pass is to help us to realise that we are Denizens of Eternity and Children of the Light . Our reaction to and our assimilation of the lessons learned to help us on our pilgrimage becomes of paramount importance.

All of life is a learning process and how we use life's experiences to further our understanding of our True Nature and that of our fellow creatures.

I think we should take heart from the fact that the real part of us is untouched by all that goes on in the world around us. This is really the message I need to get across to everyone. In the final analysis those on the side of the GOOD, the TRUE and the BEAUTIFUL cannot be defeated. If there are those who kill the body, they cannot kill the Soul – they only sever their connection with their own Soul.

Conscience is the stirring of the Divinity within- to stifle the conscience is to become soul dead. And so many in this world are encouraged to stifle their conscience and become hard hearted.

Generally, the world bases its thoughts and actions on wrong premises. People try to hang on to life and prolong life- not really knowing what life is. Life is life- it goes on forever and this earth is one of the most limited and constricted manifestations of life- what we call death is actually an expansion of life- a gateway to a greater life and light. A step nearer to what we are in essence. With this in mind, I will finish with a quote from HPB's Messages to the American Conventions in 1888:

"The tendency of modern civilization is a reaction towards animalism, towards a development of those qualities which conduce to the success in life of man as an animal in the struggle for animal existence. Theosophy seeks to develop the human nature in man in addition to the animal, and at the sacrifice of the superfluous animality which modern life and materialistic teachings have developed to a degree which is abnormal for the human being at this stage of his progress.

Men cannot all be Occultists, but they can all be Theosophists. Many who have never heard of the Society are Theosophists without knowing it themselves; for the essence of Theosophy is the perfect harmonizing of the divine with the human in man, the adjustment of his god-like qualities and aspirations. and their sway over the terrestrial or animal passions in him.
Kindness, absence of every ill feeling or selfishness, charity, good-will to all beings, and perfect justice to others as to one's self, are its chief features. He who teaches Theosophy preaches the gospel of good-will; and the converse of this is true also, – he who preaches the gospel of good-will, teaches Theosophy."

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Wayne Gatfield joined the Adyar Theosophical Society in 1975 and is President of the Bolton Lodge of the Theosophical Society in England and Wales.

He is a National Speaker for the Theosophical Society in England and Wales, an Associate of the United Lodge of Theosophists and a member of the Pasadena Theosophical Society.

Wayne also writes for various Theosophical magazines including the Theosophist and Hermes online magazine. He writes poetry and fantasy stories and has published books on Kindle and paperback.

Wayne also has his own YouTube channel on which he has several recorded talks as well as his own poetry and contributes articles to several Theosophy related Facebook pages.